

News from Philippa Johnson

Dear All

We have just got back from Mannheim CPEDI3*. We started on Saturday with the Team Test, I have to say I was thrilled with Verdi it was the first time I have ever felt him like that, he was super, we finished 4th (well technically 3rd as two horses tied 2nd) with 70,93% in a class of 18 horses.

Monday we rode the Championships, again Verdi felt superb but I just didn't ride him actively enough. We also unfortunately had a German judge who decided that he didn't like us, judge at B had us 2nd, judge at C had us 6th and our lovely German judge at H had us 13th!! Bad luck we know this happens in dressage. We still finished in the prizes, 6th with 67,74% again in a class of 18 horses.

Tuesday was the Kur, again it was me who let the side down. I rode the kur very badly, it was sloppy riding and I am still telling myself off about it. We finished 6th with 71,08% out of 17 horses. On one side I was very pleased as I had set my goal for Mannheim to increase my scores that I had received in France by 2% which we did. On the other I am very disappointed in the way I rode but as always a learning experience.

It was interesting for me to note that every judge I spoke to brought up Benedict and how wonderful he was and what a team we made etc. It shows me that they still have a very fixed idea of me in their head. The good news is the judges that saw Verdi at WEG were all very impressed with his improvement and each one said we are heading in the right direction!

Love, P